

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 14

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 11, 1939

## Soil Conservation Need Great In U. S.

**Waste of Our Natural Resources Creates a Serious Problem for Entire Nation**

### GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION

**Launches Program Designed to Prevent Further Dissipation of America's Resources**

We often speak with pride of America's abundant natural resources. Compared with other countries, the United States is exceptionally fortunate in its supply of coal, iron, oil, copper, and timber as well as in the richness of its soil. Largely because of this good fortune, it has become the world's leading industrial nation.

No credit is due to us that we have rich resources. They were here in even greater abundance when our ancestors first settled North America some three centuries ago. This was a virgin continent. It had great forests, rich, untouched grasslands, an unknown supply of minerals, and abundant wild life. Its wealth seemed inexhaustible.

### Our Vanishing Resources

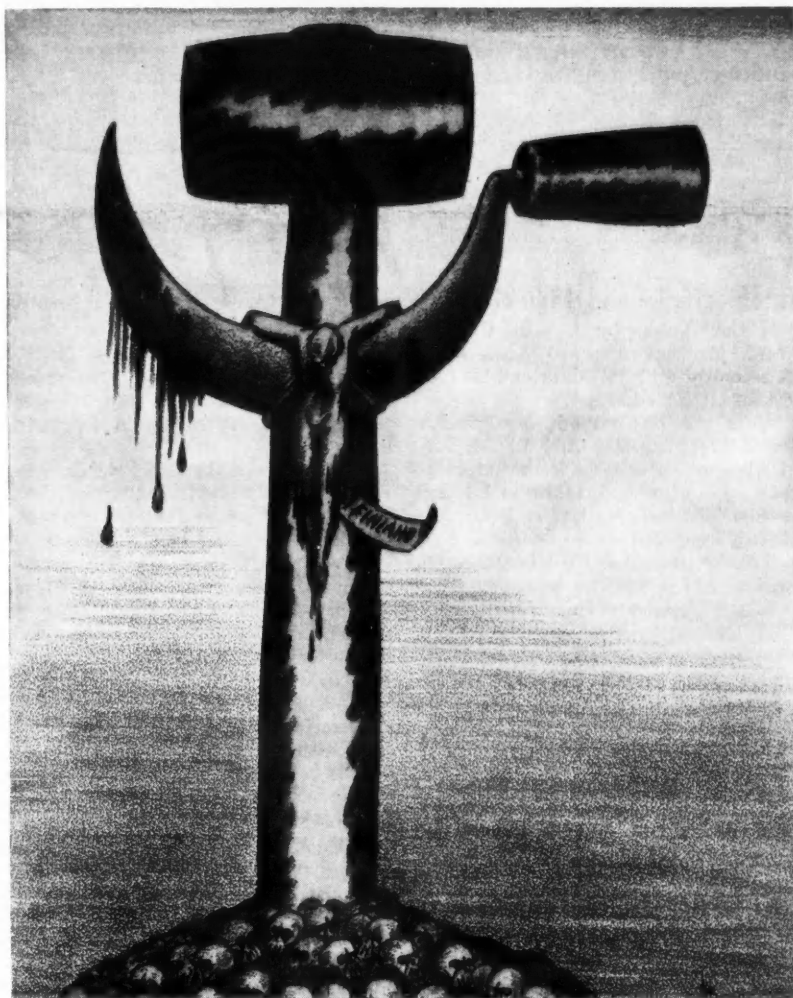
Today much of this vast wealth is gone. Our hunting and fishing resources are sadly depleted. Only about two-thirds of our forests remain. Our great midwestern plains have been plowed up and cannot be fully restored for years. Most of our soil is still fertile, but large areas have become unsuitable for cultivation and other sections have been damaged by wind, floods, or drought. Large amounts of rich topsoil have been washed into our streams and from there into the ocean.

Our eastern forests were cut over many years ago. Little or no effort was made to lumber scientifically. There was plenty of timber, so that the cutters took the choice trees, leaving a tangled mass of broken, injured trees, which prevented a normal second growth. Huge areas were burnt over, either by accident or design, after the region had been cut over. Much the same thing has been happening in the West in recent years. Greater care is taken today than was the case a few years ago. But there is still tremendous waste. Each year we cut five times as much sawn timber and twice as much cordwood as we are growing. And we waste several times as much as we use. Then there is, in addition, tremendous loss from fires. Forest fires last year burned over 33,815,000 acres of timberland, an area as large as the state of Arkansas. Much of this loss is the result of carelessness.

There has been a corresponding waste of our mineral wealth. The richest veins of coal have often been mined so as to make it difficult to get at the less desirable ones. Similar inefficient methods have led to huge waste of copper, lead, zinc, and other minerals. It is estimated that the known lead and zinc reserves will last for not more than 15 years. The situation is also serious in the case of oil. Some authorities predict that our oil reserves will be exhausted within a generation or two. No one can say for sure how long it will be because we keep finding new fields. But we are finding new reserves only about half as fast as the old ones are being exhausted. Someday soon we shall have a day of reckoning.

Most alarming of all is the continued loss of our soil. It has been estimated

(Concluded on page 8)



(From a cartoon by Talburt in the Washington News.)

## Is There a Santa Claus?

The following article, which appeared in the New York Sun for September 21, 1897, is said to have been reprinted more times and in more languages than any other editorial ever written. We believe it is as appropriate today as when it first appeared:

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor:

"I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, If you see it in the Sun it's so. Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

"Virginia O'Hanlon"

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You can tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

## Effects Of Invasion Of Finland Weighed

**Growing Power of Soviet Union Greatly Affects Balance of Power in Europe**

### WHAT DOES RUSSIA WANT?

**New Policy Combines Imperialism of Czars with Spread of Communist Revolution**

The moral indignation of the entire world has been stirred as a result of the Soviet Union's invasion of Finland. The Finns, a nation of hardly four million souls, who have asked nothing more than to be left alone to live at peace with the world and to solve their own problems, have suddenly found themselves threatened with destruction as an independent nation. Although they offered stubborn resistance to the invading forces from the air, land, and sea, there was little hope last week that they could hold out for long against a nation of from 160,000,000 to 180,000,000 inhabitants, capable of raising an army of 12,000,000 soldiers as compared with Finland's 200,000, and infinitely superior in all the weapons and resources of modern warfare.

### Far-Reaching Consequences

The invasion of Finland has had far-reaching consequences throughout Europe and the world. The specter of Communist Russia, with its alien economic and political doctrines, moving ever westward into Europe filled all nations with fright. They saw in Russia's action a threat to European civilization. Dozens of questions arose throughout the continent as Soviet bombs were poured over Finnish cities, Soviet soldiers marched into the country, and Soviet ships captured Finnish islands and strategic naval bases. With Finland subdued, would the Soviet Union next move against Norway and Sweden? Would she turn to the Balkans and seize Bessarabia which she lost to Rumania after the World War? Would the war between Russia and Finland merge with the war between the Allies and Germany and engulf the entire continent? Why has Russia invaded Finland at this time?

We shall begin our discussion by considering the last of these questions. The Russians justify their action against Finland by saying that they had to guarantee the security of their own frontiers by obtaining concessions which Finland was unwilling to grant. They claim that a strong foreign power might use Finland as a base from which to attack the Soviet Union, especially the city of Leningrad, with a population of 3,500,000, which is only a few miles from the Finnish frontier. The Russians charged that Finnish soldiers had fired upon Soviet soldiers. They demanded that Finnish troops be withdrawn 12 to 15 miles from the frontier. When Finland refused to comply with these requests, the invasion began, Russia claiming that she was acting in self-defense.

Behind the claims and counterclaims that have been advanced, however, there loom certain important facts which make the picture much clearer. The use of force against Finland is but a climax to developments which have been taking place for three months. Following the signing of the German-Russian agreement late in August and the outbreak of war in September, Russia embarked upon a policy of dominating the Baltic region of Europe.

(Concluded on page 3)

# BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

## Fiction

The Tree of Liberty, by Elizabeth Page. Farrar and Rinehart. \$3. One of the best novels of the year with an excellent plot and a picture of American historic beginnings.

Sister of the Angels, by Elizabeth Goudge. Coward-McCann. \$1.50. A charming Christmas book with a story of two children and an old cathedral.

Michael Beam, by Richard Matthews Hallet. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50. America in the frontier stages with a trail-breaker democrat as the hero.

Purslane, by Bernice Kelly Harris. University of North Carolina Press. \$2.50. A realistic story of a rural Carolina community and its people.

If Not Victory, by Frank O. Hough. Carrick and Evans. \$2.50. Authentic novel of average people in the Revolutionary War.

50 Best American Short Stories, 1915-1939, edited by Edward J. O'Brien. Houghton Mifflin. \$3. The cream of the contemporary short-story field collected by a well-known critic.

Next to Valour, by John Jennings. Macmillan. \$2.75. A full-bodied action novel of colonial New England.

Captain Horatio Hornblown, by C. S. Forester. Little, Brown. \$2.75. To those who like sea stories this salt-water romance will be the best find in several years.

Ararat, by Elgin Groseclose. Carrick and Evans. \$2.50. This is a story of the survival of the ideals of a race during the Russian Revolution.

A Sea-Island Lady, by Francis Griswold. Morrow. \$3. A fascinating story of six decades in the sea islands of the Carolina low countries at the time of the Civil War.

Moment in Peking, by Lin Yutang. John Day. \$3. Vivid account of life in China.

## Biography

Abraham Lincoln: The War Years, by Carl Sandburg. Harcourt, Brace. \$20 for the set. These four volumes are by far the most significant biographical work that has come out of the United States in many years. Insight into a crucial period in American history combined with a many-sided picture of Lincoln makes a magnificent set of books by one of America's leading poets writing in prose.

The Life and Times of William Howard Taft, by Henry F. Pringle. Farrar and Rinehart. 2 volumes \$7.50. A revealing and important account of Taft's career and political setting.

Thoreau, by Henry Seidel Canby. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.75. An illuminating biography of a great American writer, nature lover, and philosopher.

Daniel Boone, by John Bakeless. Morrow. \$3.50. Frontier life in Kentucky with the highlight on our most celebrated pioneer.

Democracy's Norris, by Alfred Lief. Stackpole. \$3.50. An excellent portrait of a lone crusader.

Alexander Hamilton, by David Loth. Carrick. \$3. A full biography of Hamilton as a versatile genius of early American history.

## Autobiography and Memoirs

Fighting Years, by Oswald Garrison Villard. Harcourt, Brace. \$3.75. A vigorous record of a liberal editor and his life-time fight for his ideals.

All in the Day's Work, by Ida M. Tarbell. Macmillan. \$3.50. Ida M. Tarbell's long career as magazine writer, biographer, historian, and editor makes her memoirs interesting reading.

Wind, Sand, and Stars, by Antoine de St. Exupery. Reynal and Hitchcock. \$2.75. A unique and well-written book describing the author's experiences on a flying journey.

My Memoir, by Edith Bolling Wilson. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.50. A personalized account of life as a president's wife and of social activities in Washington with revealing glimpses of Woodrow Wilson as a man and statesman.

A Goodly Fellowship, by Mary Ellen Chase. Macmillan. \$2.50. A lively story of the changing American scene, full of amusing anecdotes and interesting people, as seen by an American teacher and author.

Days of Our Years, by Pierre van Paassen. Hillman-Curl. \$3.50. Adventurous living and writing characterize this autobiographical story of a newspaperman. It gives a skillful picture of moving world events.

From Another World, by Louis Untermeyer. Harcourt, Brace. \$3. An accumulation of literary and intellectual personages of this age written up from the varied experiences of this noted American critic.

Tar Heel Editor, by Josephus Daniels. University of North Carolina Press. \$3.50. A chapter in the history of the South given through the memoirs of an old-time liberal newspaper editor.

News Is Where You Find It, by Frederic William Wile. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.75. Four decades of an active life as a reporter are covered in the memoirs of the "big names" in the newspaper world.

I Lost My English Accent, by Cecil Thompson. Putnam. \$2. An English journalist writes a book of hilarious observations on life, manners, and politics in America during the last six years.

## History

The Heritage of America, by Henry Steele Commager and Allan Nevins. Little, Brown. \$4. An autobiography of America made up of the source material of American history.

The Living Tradition, by Simeon Strunsky. Doubleday Doran. \$3.50. An interesting study of "the persistent factors of American life operating beneath the surface of change."

America in Mid-Passage, by Charles and Mary Beard. Macmillan. \$3.50. Past 10 years of American life and their place in Western civilization interpreted by two of the outstanding historians of America.

The Incredible Era, by Samuel Hopkins Adams. Houghton Mifflin. \$3. A review of the notorious Harding administration and its after effects.

Modern Man in the Making, by Otto Neurath. Knopf. \$2.95. A unique book complete with many graphs and charts showing the economic, social, and political progress of mankind.



VILLAGE STREET

(From a woodcut by Thomas Nason in "A Treasury of American Prints," edited by Thomas Craven, Simon and Schuster.)

Americans, by Emil Jordon. Norton. \$3.50. The development of the unique race of Americans from many different nationalities described in an interesting book.

American Saga, by Marjorie Barstow. Whittlesey House. \$4. An unusual book about the history and literature of the American dream of a better life.

These Are Our Lives, by The Federal Writers' Project. University of North Carolina Press. \$2. A collection of sketches about the people of the South told in their own words.

The Life of Greece, by Will Durant. Simon and Schuster. \$3.95. Mr. Durant has interpreted the Greek way of life in terms of modern conflicts in culture. His book is both entertaining and informative.

## Politics and Economics

Of Human Freedom, by Jacques Barzun. Little, Brown. \$2.50. A penetrating analysis of the basis of democracy as it is tied up with the physical and cultural environment of individuals.

Not Peace But a Sword, by Vincent Sheean. Doubleday Doran. \$2.75. In the flood of books about the crisis this one by a famous foreign correspondent is outstanding for vivid writing and keen analysis.

Union Now, by Clarence K. Streit. Harpers. \$3. A unique book proposing a federal union of the leading democracies as a solution of present conflicts.

Ideas Are Weapons, by Max Lerner. Viking. \$3.50. A noted political writer investigates the struggle between democratic forces and minority groups in this country.

An Economic Constitution for Democracy, by George Soule. Plans for democratic ways out of the economic dilemma by one of the country's outstanding writers on economics.

The End of Economic Man, by Peter F. Drucker. John Day. \$2.50. This writer traces the development of the totalitarian revolution in the light of its effect on the democracies and the eventual fate of man.

Books That Changed Our Minds, edited by Malcolm Cowley and Bernard Smith. Doubleday Doran. \$2.50. A symposium of excellent articles by various writers on books that changed the course of their thinking.

## Travel

The Danube, by Emil Lengyel. Random House. \$3.75. A Hungarian writes with understanding of the Danube River as a "moulder of men's lives and national destinies."

Inside Asia, by John Gunther. Harpers. \$3.50. A comprehensive account of a 30,000-mile journey through Asia with observations on the personalities, politics, economics, and religions found there.

Land Below the Wind, by Agnes Newton Keith. Little, Brown. \$3. A fascinating story of life in Borneo by an American woman.

Iceland, by Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Doubleday Doran. \$3.50. An American of Icelandic descent writes a saga-like story of the "First American Republic."

Australia, by Paul McGuire. Stokes. \$3.50. An Australian makes a present-day survey of his country showing its resources, its people, its place in world affairs, and its prospects and vital needs.

The Menacing Sun, by Mona Gardener. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50. A travel book of southern Asia with an analysis of Japanese penetration into other places than China.

## The Arts

A Treasury of Art Masterpieces, edited by Thomas Craven. Simon and Schuster. \$10. A beautiful collection of the greatest masterpieces of painting with comment by an outstanding historian of art.



(From a drawing by C. Walter Hodges for "Sister of the Angels.")

Collected Poems of Robert Frost. Holt. \$5. A complete volume of the New England poet's verse.

The American Drama Since 1918, by Joseph Wood Krutch. Random House. \$2.50. To anyone interested in the development of the theatre as a factor in American life, this would be a valuable book.

Here Is a Book, by Marshall McLintock. Vanguard Press. \$2. A fascinating account of a book from its beginning in the author's mind through all the processes of publishing, and ending in the story itself which is called "Scoop."

## Science

Excursions in Science, edited by Neil B. Reynolds and Ellis L. Manning. Whittlesey House. \$2.50. Thirty scientists tell about their work in specialized fields.

Science Today and Tomorrow, by Waldemar Kaempffert. Viking. \$2.50. A skillful scientific journalist writes of the latest frontiers in scientific research and the social aspects of this work.

Pioneers of Plenty, by Christy Borth. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3. The magic of modern chemistry and the unusual uses to which it is being put told in an interesting book.

America Begins Again, by Katherine Glover. McGraw. \$1.76. A well-written story of our natural resources, their waste, and plans for their conservation.

Modern Miracle Men, by J. D. Ratcliffe. Dodd-Mead. \$3. A well-known writer on medical science describes the revolutionary changes science is making in agriculture.



(From the frontispiece by Tom Lea, for "The Heritage of America.")



## Soviet Drive in Finland Studied

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

Whether this policy was in accordance with an arrangement with Germany is not clear. However, she forced Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania to make concessions to her—concessions which included the granting of far-reaching military and naval rights to Russia. The Soviets were allowed to establish military and naval bases in these countries and to maintain troops there. While the independence of the three Baltic nations was technically not destroyed, it was considerably impaired as a result of the agreements.

Demands of a similar character were made upon Finland. The Soviets demanded Finnish territory in the Arctic, a strip of land near Leningrad, demilitarization of the Finnish-Soviet frontier, cession of islands in the Gulf of Finland, and lease of territory at Hangoe. The Finns contended that the granting of these demands to Russia would result in the destruction of their independence, and, after weeks of negotiation, refused to accept, although they were prepared to make many concessions and to continue negotiations.

In his dealings with Finland and the Baltic states, Stalin has stolen Hitler's method of controlling neighboring states. Demands are made upon the country. If these demands are not accepted, a campaign is launched against the country by press and radio. The recalcitrant neighbor is painted as a villain, menacing the security of the nation making the demands. Armed force must be used in self-defense and to liberate the population from the oppression of its government. Either the territory is annexed outright or a puppet government is set up.

### Finland's Progress

The tragedy of Finland is the greater when considered in the light of the progress made by that northern country. The Finns have come to be recognized as a superior people. With few natural resources, they have managed to build an advanced civilization. The people are supported by the forests and mines—73 per cent of the land area being in forests. By constant effort they have raised the standard of living to among the highest in Europe—far higher than that of the Russians.

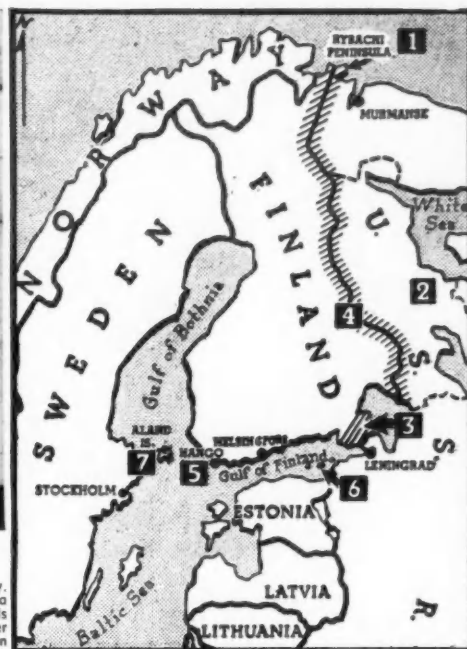
For centuries before 1809, Finland belonged to Sweden. Until the end of the World War, it was a part of Russia. During the period of Russian domination, however, the people enjoyed a large degree of independence, which they had wrung from the czars. They had their own constitution, made their own laws, maintained their own army.

The World War and the Bolshevik Revolution offered the Finns their opportunity to sever all connection with the Russians and to work out their destiny as an independent nation. They went about their business of constructing a truly democratic state and a stable economy. While they launched no five-year plans and indulged in little boasting, their accomplishments were considerable. As in the



IN ACTION

Russian troops crossed the border into Finland to fulfill Soviet ambitions in the little Baltic country. The original Russian demands, as shown on the map, had been for part of the Rybachy Peninsula (1), in return for which the Soviet Union offered to give Finland part of Karelia (2). Other demands included a strip of the Karelian Isthmus near Leningrad (3), disarming of the Russo-Finnish frontier (4), a lease on Finnish territory near the entrance of the Gulf of Finland (5), and small islands in the Gulf of Finland (6). In return for these concessions Russia would not object to Finnish fortification of the Aland Islands (7).



other Scandinavian countries, the cooperative movement made great strides. Hard work and intelligent policies gave them an enviable position among the nations of Europe and won for them the respect of the entire world. Few countries can show the record of achievement of Finland during the 20 years of her independence.

Will Russia be satisfied to obtain the concessions which she demanded from Finland or will she seek outright annexation, or at least political domination of the country? Only future events can give the answer to that question. But it seems likely that the Soviets will seek greatly to alter the political and economic structure of the country. Immediately following the invasion a "Democratic Finnish Republic" was set up along the frontier and was recognized by the Soviets as the legal government of Finland. The policy of this government is to come to peace terms with Russia, to "expel the Finnish landlords and generals, nationalize the banks and industries, divide up the estates." It would appear, therefore, that the objective of Russia is to extend the economic system of the Communists—or at least a modified form of it—to Finland, as well as to make Finland a political satellite of the Soviet Union.

### The Broader Question

Beyond the immediate and ultimate fate of Finland lies the greater question of what Russia's action portends for Europe as a whole. Fear has gripped all nations that the Communists have seriously embarked upon a policy of imperialism which will not stop until the independence of other nations has been destroyed. If Russia establishes herself securely in Finland, the neighboring states of Norway and Sweden will be in a precarious position. Norway is fearful lest Russia seek to obtain some of her ports in order to control the entrance to the Baltic, and Sweden sees danger to her iron mines, which play an important

role in supplying an essential war material.

Nor have the Balkan countries forgotten that historically Russia has had designs in that corner of Europe. If, as seems probable, Communist Russia has revived the imperial policies of the prewar czars, there is little reason to believe that she will stop with domination of the Baltic states. She is likely to push southward in the Balkans, to regain Bessarabia from Rumania, and to establish herself securely on the Black Sea. Russian penetration into the Balkans would undoubtedly set that entire region aflame, with incalculable consequences to the entire continent.

Whether the theatre of war spreads as a result of the Soviet Union's invasion of Finland, the consequences upon the future of Europe will be great indeed. And it would appear that among the large nations, Germany is the principal loser in this struggle. Already Russia has made herself mistress of the Baltic Sea, the domination of which has always constituted one of the bases of German foreign policy. By sharing in the partition of Poland, Russia's boundaries have penetrated into central Europe, making it impossible for Germany to move in that direction without the active cooperation of the Soviet Union. Nor can Germany move in the Balkans without running against the Red army, unless Russia chooses to let her move in that direction. Step by step, Russia has succeeded in encircling Germany and in making her every move dependent upon the wishes of Moscow. Unless the two nations agree to share the spoils of victory, as they did in Poland, Germany will gain little from the increasing strength of the Soviet Union.

### England and France

From the standpoint of England and France, the prospects are not much brighter. The capitalist, democratic nations of Europe cannot view without concern the growing power of the Soviet Union. Communism, with its policy of world revolution, has for 20 years been regarded as perhaps the greatest menace to European civilization. For 20 years, Russia was held back by the independent nations on her western border—Poland, the Baltic states, and Finland. Those countries were regarded as a bulwark against the spread of the Russian system into the heart of Europe. Now the bulwark has been destroyed and the hand of Russia is extending further toward the vital interests of the British and the French. Many people in England and France regard Russia as a far more serious menace to them than Germany ever could be.

If Russia should take advantage of England's and France's preoccupation in the West to extend her influence elsewhere, she would place those countries in a serious predicament. British interests in the Near and Far East are considerable, and throughout modern history there have been conflicts between England and Russia over these conflicting interests. The

British and French have been determined to keep Russia from menacing their domination of the Mediterranean, from penetrating the Near East, and from obtaining a position from which they could threaten India and other British and French possessions in the Orient. What those nations fear now is that Russia will again attempt to realize these centuries-old ambitions.

### Basic Soviet Aims

The policy upon which the Soviet Union has embarked seems to be a combination of the old czarist imperialism with the Communist scheme of world revolution. G. E. R. Gedye, Moscow correspondent of the *New York Times*, analyzes this policy of the Soviets as follows:

The new policy is revealed as one of promoting the overthrow of anti-Soviet regimes by the promotion of revolt at home and still more by aggression from without by the Soviet Union's huge, well-armed and well-equipped forces.

This blend of revolutionary with typically fascist, imperialist methods apparently is not a prelude to annexation on the capitalist model, nor yet to the revolutionary aim of establishing a dictatorship of the proletariat as a prelude to a Soviet economic and political system. The imperialist trend is shown in the demand to surrender naval, military, and air bases that would put the whole country in these respects in the hands of the Soviet, denying the use of its territory to any other great power.

A revolutionary trend in Soviet policy is maintained in the demand for a new type of popular front to include not only workers and peasants but small tradesmen and followers of intellectual professions. The future government is to be based on this bloc. This demand seems to combine the imperialistic motive of seeking satisfaction through domination and the Socialist motive of seeking abolition of the control of big capital.

**REFERENCES:** (a) Communist Imperialism. *The Nation*, November 11, 1939, pp. 511-512. (b) Finland Cherishes Its Independence. *Reader's Digest*, February 1939, pp. 101-103. (c) Stalin in Europe: the Baltic, by H. C. Wolfe. *Current History*, November 1939, pp. 19-22. (d) Communist Imperialism. *The New Republic*, October 11, 1939.

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** Jan Sibelius (yahn' si-bay'li-oos), Helsinki (hel'seen-kee), Tavastehus (tah-vahs'tay-hues), Sikorski (see-kor'skee), Cracow (kray'koe).



HELSINKI—TARGET FOR SOVIET BOMBS

ACME

### The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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AN INDIAN PAINTS A MURAL

A number of Indians have come to Washington to paint murals in the new Department of Interior building. Above is Woodrow Crumbo, Potawatomi artist from Oklahoma, at work on his mural, "Wild Horses."

## DOMESTIC

### Political Scene

Day by day the scattered activity among Democrats and Republicans which precedes a presidential election year is growing and spreading. Every time President Roosevelt makes a speech or is interviewed by the press, his words and pronouncements are carefully weighed. After many fruitless attempts, newspapermen still hope to catch him off his guard, and learn what his third-term intentions are. It has become a game between the President and the writers, who are guessing now that he will reveal his plans at the Democrats' Jackson Day dinner in January.

Even the dates of the two national conventions next summer are in doubt. In the past, both Republicans and Democrats have met sometime in June preceding the November election. And the Republicans have always held theirs first. But now the Republicans, wanting to know whom the Democrats will nominate, are considering holding their convention last. And the President has sug-

"the news of the Soviet naval and military bombings within Finnish territory has come as a profound shock to the government and people of the United States."

This intense feeling, which has seldom been so unanimous, reflected the esteem held by the United States for Finland. Part of the sympathy is due to the fact that Finland is a small country, with few resources, and that it has devoted its energies largely to the solution of domestic problems by democratic methods. And there is widespread admiration for Finland's steady reduction of her war debt to the United States.

One of the President's first steps, aside from condemning the Russian campaign, was to declare a moral embargo on the export of airplanes, bombs, and other military equipment to Russia. Although this embargo is not legally binding, practically all the companies will observe it, as they did when similar action was taken against Japan. It has also been proposed that Congress should excuse Finland from her debt payments while she is in trouble. The strongest suggestion is that the United States should sever diplomatic relations with Russia.

### Christmas Seals

Thousands of packages and letters in the holiday mail this year are bearing the well-known Christmas seals. With the money from the sale of these stamps, the National Tuberculosis Association is aiding in the widespread campaign against tuberculosis. Their work has helped the doctors to push the disease from the chief single cause of death down to seventh place on the list within 40 years. There are about 200,000 persons alive in this country today who would have died if that progress had not been made.

Every penny that goes into this campaign chest is used for sanatoriums, fresh air camps, medical examinations, and treatment of persons who cannot afford to pay for their care.

### Indian Art

Indians riding bareback on fast prairie ponies, medicine men healing sick children, women carrying water in intricate pottery jugs—these are a few of the scenes that are being depicted on the walls of the recreation room and cafeteria in the new Department of Interior building in Washington. The building houses the Office of Indian Affairs, and in addition to employing several full-blooded Indians in administrative positions, the Office has commissioned six Indian artists

#### NOTICE

Since this will be the last issue of The American Observer until after the Christmas holidays, we shall not be able to announce the winners of the national youth essay contest, sponsored by the "Town Meeting of the Air" radio program, until we resume publication on January 1. At that time, however, we expect to print the list of winners and also publish the essay which is awarded first prize.

Meanwhile, we hope that each of our readers will have a pleasant vacation period and we extend our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



CAMPAIGN

Every year, at this time, Christmas seals are sold to aid in the battle against tuberculosis.

gested that both parties meet in July or August, instead of June, to shorten the campaign period. No matter when the conventions are held—June, July, or August—the leading figures of both parties are already laying plans for the political fights which lie ahead.

### America's Reaction

When Finland was invaded by Russia (see page 1), the reaction in this country was spontaneous. Government officials, members of both political parties, senators, representatives, and the nation at large supported President Roosevelt's strongly worded condemnation of Russia. He accused Russia of a "wanton disregard for law," and said that

# The Week at Home

## What the People of the World Are

to record their ceremonies and traditions in these murals.

The murals originated as pencil sketches, and when these were approved, full-size "cartoons" were made on brown paper. The paper was perforated along the lines and the design was transferred to the wall. Finally the artists, sometimes standing on trestles, color the outline. Some of the murals are being done in water color, and some of them in oil.

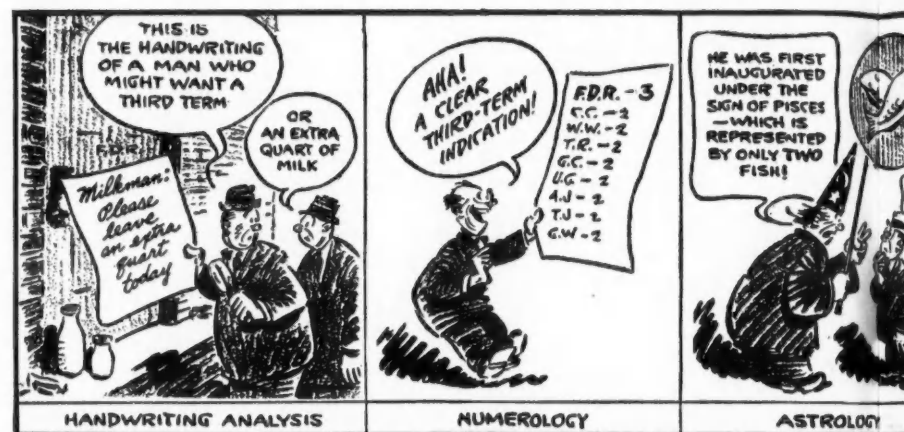
### Trade Treaties

The project nearest the heart of Cordell Hull, secretary of state, is his trade agreements program. Under his direction, no less than 21 agreements have been concluded with other countries. They have all sought to further world trade through two fundamental policies—reduction of high tariff walls, and the abolition of discrimination in the commercial relationships between one nation and another.

The threatened prosecution of unions for violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, which labor has always held did not apply to unions, is such a factor, and makes the New Deal "trust-buster," Thurman Arnold, very much the common enemy against whom both the unions can unite. In addition, the third session of the 76th Congress may well prove an enemy to the AFL and CIO alike. Such friends of labor as Mayor LaGuardia and Senator Wagner have both warned that unless labor presents a united front, many recent legislative gains may be lost. And David Dubinsky, head of the wealthy and independent International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, has again pleaded for peace and pointed out that the AFL has greatly modified its attitude toward industrial unionization which first caused the break.

### Cleveland's Plight

Cleveland is in the midst of an industrial boom. But not all of the 900,000 people in



FROM NOW ON NOTHING WILL BE OVERLOOKED

When hearings on a proposed agreement with Chile were held, the storm of controversy which broke out indicated that the entire trade agreements program would be subjected to heavy fire at the next session of Congress. Opponents of the program divide their criticisms into two main divisions. For one thing, they say, the war has hindered the system. England, for example, has announced that certain provisions in its agreement with the United States are now inoperative, and in their financial war, the Allies have adopted many of the former hindrances to foreign trade such as quotas, barter, and so on. In addition, many individual producers maintain that their businesses have been hurt by lower duties on competing goods from abroad. Some of these opponents would scrap the entire reciprocal program, while others favor a lapse of one year when the law expires in June.

Secretary Hull, however, has indicated that he will battle against any change. The State Department contends that 68 per cent of the American foreign trade is covered by agreements, and that exports to those countries with which the United States had an agreement averaged 61.2 per cent greater in 1937 and 1938 than in 1934 and 1935. Unconvinced by these figures, opponents said they would carry the fight to Congress next month. It was even likely that the issue would loom large in the 1940 presidential campaign.

### Labor Peace?

Although John L. Lewis last spring termed it "secondary," the question of harmony between the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor has now become of primary importance to the workingman. The repeated attempts of President Roosevelt and Secretary Perkins to heal the breach have been unavailing, but four years have minimized many of the differences between the two, and the question resolves itself largely to one of "saving face." Although few dare hope for an immediate truce, factors are arising which it is hoped will throw the unions together.

the city are working. About 70,000 of them have no jobs; they depend on relief and food orders for an existence. Last summer, when the state legislature met, Cleveland's mayor told the governor that the city would need about 13 million dollars a year for these relief needs. Part would come from the state; the city would furnish the rest of the money. But the legislature allowed only 10 million dollars a year for the next two years. The money for this year's needs has run out now, and Cleveland has nowhere to turn.

Mayor Burton wants a special session of the legislature called this month, in order that at least one million dollars can be provided for the emergency. But Governor Bricker says he will not do this because the city should have managed its funds better. The WPA, which cut Cleveland's relief rolls from 70,000 in November 1938 to 31,000 in November 1939 may provide 6,000 jobs. Meanwhile, 12,000 of the 70,000 unemployed persons get only apples and flour to eat, and the others receive from 11 to 17½ cents worth of food apiece each day.



Ships of a British convoy, stretching as far as the eye can see.



# Home and Abroad

## Are Doing, Saying, and Thinking

### FOREIGN

#### Three Polands

In the some three months which have passed since the Polish government collapsed, three new Polands have slowly taken shape. The central and western sections, containing 18,000,000 people, are now ruled by a German military government from the new capital, Cracow, which has replaced Warsaw. Contrary to expectations, the Germans have set up no puppet Polish government, and granted to the Polish people no political rights. The work of repairing the great damage done during the short but fiery war is done by forced Polish labor under the direction of German foremen. The entire Polish population is eventually to become liable to this compulsory labor. Polish army prisoners have not been

The most unique of the three Polish regions now in separate existence is that which occupies less than one square mile of the old French city of Angers, about 200 miles southwest of Paris. Here a Polish republican government in exile has been established under Premier General Wladislas Sikorski. In co-operation with the French government, Sikorski is carrying on the affairs of the Polish government and raising an army of Polish exiles to fight on the western front.

#### Belgian Congo

To some people the word Congo suggests little more than a dirty, yellow stream, pushing a sluggish course through fever-ridden jungles in equatorial Africa. But to the people of Belgium it means something more. It means a region which, covering an area 85 times the size of Belgium itself, and containing some 10 million blacks, constitutes the entire Belgian overseas empire. Hot and unhealthy though the Belgian Congo is, it contains many of the materials which Belgian markets, and hungry Belgian industries need. These materials include tin in large quantities, rubber, some of the world's largest copper reserves, cotton, coffee, sugar, rice, zinc, gold, and radium.

The closing of many important world markets because of war in Europe has renewed Belgium's interest in economic development of her Congo lands. Using a technique developed by the Canadian Pacific Railroad in settling western Canada, the Congo administration is extending railway lines into the somewhat mysterious interior, establishing settlements, and then—when sufficient new trade begins to flow to make it worth while—pushing in still further. Belgian experts are building big storage plants at the mouth of the Congo, and studying new methods for cultivating citrus fruits (of which Belgium is a large importer), cotton, and bananas.

#### Italians in Albania

The tension which gripped the eastern Adriatic following Italy's invasion and annexation of the little mountain kingdom of Albania, last April, has been considerably eased within the last few months as both Italian and Greek troops have been reduced along the Albanian frontier, and matters have returned to normal. While the Italians have been thorough in reorganizing Albania along fascist lines, they seem to have enjoyed more success than Germany in governing Czechoslovakia, which fell one month before Albania. On the old theory that "nothing is cheaper than money" they have spread largesse with a generous hand. The practice was adopted shortly after the Italian occupation when Foreign Minister Count Ciano rode through Albanian towns scattering Italian treasury notes to the crowds. Later, fascist clubs were organized which welcomed new members with gifts of cash.

All of this does not mean that the Albanian people are enthusiastic over the new order



JAVA—WORKERS ON A TEA PLANTATION

Life on the island of Java is, and has been, chiefly agricultural. In recent years, however, there has been a trend toward industrialization.

of things. Most of them are hardy, proud mountaineers who resent dictation of any sort, domestic or foreign, and occasionally they display resentment by a demonstration against Italian rule. In theory the only tie between Italy and Albania today is that of the crown, Victor Emanuel being king of both nations. Actually, however, Albania is closely tied to Italy, economically and politically.

#### Crowded Java

On a map of the Netherlands East Indies, the narrow island of Java is dwarfed by the bulk of its imposing neighbors—Sumatra, Borneo, and Celebes. Yet it is the most important island of that region, and a difficult problem. Everything about this tropic island seems crowded, whether the steep-gabled old Dutch houses in Batavia, the capital; the cramped, green valleys in the interior, where carefully terraced rice paddies march up steep slopes to the very edge of the smoking cones of active volcanoes; or the big General Motors assembly plant not far from the capital. With 45,000,000 people cooped together in an area no larger than New York state, Java is the most densely populated region in the world.

A century ago there were only seven million people on the island. The phenomenal growth of the population since then has been due largely to the elimination of epidemics and a reduction in the once high mortality rate. The problem of oriental disease, then, has only given way to a new one—that of overcrowding. What can be done about it? Harried Dutch officials are trying to settle the overflow in sparsely settled Dutch islands of Borneo and Sumatra. They hope to settle 30,000 this year, and 100,000 yearly hereafter, but at best that would do no more than hold the population to its present level, and even that not for long, for the rate of increase already tops 100,000 yearly.

More important, probably, is the fact that Java is quietly abandoning its traditional role as a spice-producing South Sea island, and turning to industry. With easy access to important raw materials, a plentiful supply of cheap, unorganized labor, and plenty of foreign capital, this is not proving difficult. Already Java has 1,700,000 people at work manufacturing tinned foods, bicycles, glass, furniture, paper, soap, cement, and other goods.

#### Mexican Court Decision

On December 2 the Mexican supreme court handed down an important decision rejecting the charge of American and British oil companies that the government of Mexico had violated the constitution in seizing their properties valued at \$400,000,000 in March 1939. The court held that the companies could claim adequate compensation for their actual investments, but could not claim damages for loss of valuable concessions because the Mexican government had given these concessions without charge, and was thus free to revoke them. The court held that indemnity payments might be delayed for 10 years.

This does not mean that the Mexican oil

controversy has been settled. It only means that the Mexican courts have upheld the legality of the government's expropriation of the oil properties, and that the oil firms will have to find some other way of attempting to reach a settlement. The main question, that of the amount and nature of the payments to be made, remains unsettled.

#### Unhappy Netherlands

To whatever degree Great Britain and Germany may suffer from the effects of their blockades and counter-blockades against each other, it is upon the small neutrals that privation has fallen most heavily. The Netherlands offers the most striking example. German-planted mines washing in on the cold, gray waters of the North Sea explode irregularly up and down the Dutch coast. Many Netherlands ships, including one large liner, have gone to the bottom. Shipping in and out of Rotterdam has fallen off 70 per cent since the war began.

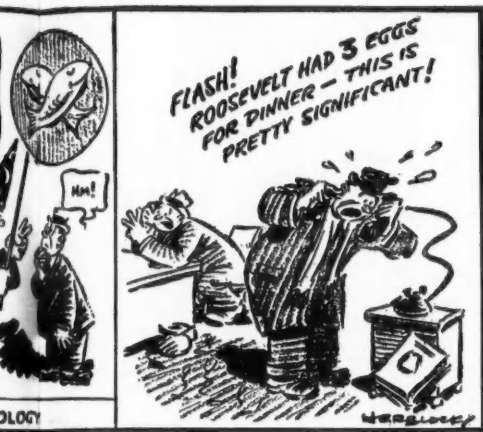
The new British blockade of German exports has come as a heavy blow to the Netherlands since the Dutch handle nearly 32,000,000 tons of German transit trade every year in time of peace, and also since the Netherlands



AT HOME

A recent picture of President Kyosti Kallio of Finland and his wife, taken at the presidential palace in Helsinki.

imports many raw materials in Germany, and then exports them again in the form of manufactures, the processing having been done by Dutch workers. The British have promised to make some allowances for this, but from experience in the World War, the Dutch are able to cherish little optimism concerning these promises. When the Netherlands government protests to Britain against some infraction of international law, it is referred to Berlin. When it protests to Germany, the blame is placed on London. Since neither side will admit responsibility or accept any blame, it remains only for the Netherlands (and the same is true of Belgium) to make the best of a bad situation.



HERBLOCK IN LYNCHBURG (VA.) NEWS

released, but are kept hard at work on German farms, or in Poland. Many agricultural workers have been taken into Germany. A great deal of confusion has resulted from the German government's huge resettlement program which has forced Poles and Jews from their homes to make way for the inflow of German colonists from the Baltic states. Executions and arrests are frequent. According to Nazi spokesmen, the German aim in Poland is to reduce the Polish people to the status of an inferior population working under the direction of a German "master race."

The 14,000,000 Polish people annexed by Russia have fared somewhat better. Executions and secret police activity have caused some terror, but having finished with their enemies, the Soviets have incorporated the Polish provinces into the Soviet Union on a basis of equality with other Soviet states. According to all reports the area is being rapidly Sovietized. Landed estates are divided among peasants, village Soviets established, and workers and peasants delegations dispatched to Moscow.

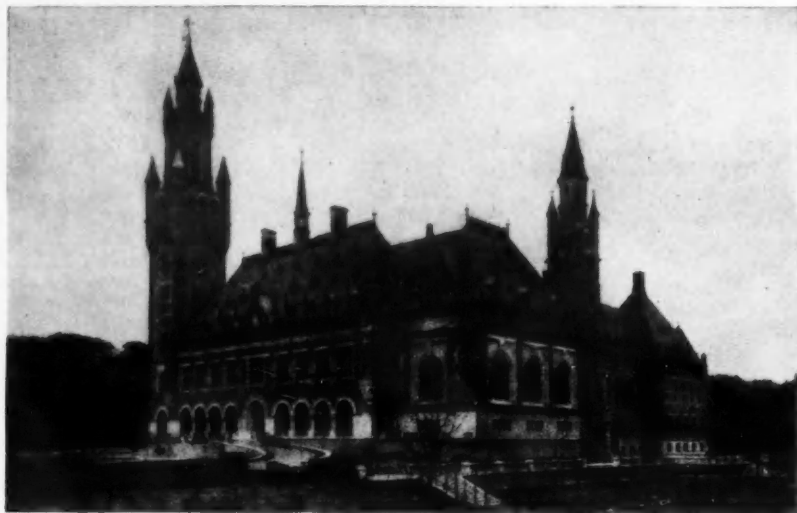


BRITAIN PROTECTS HER SUPPLY LINES

As far as the eye can see, move up one of the seaways off the British coast, safe in the protection of the British navy.

WIDE WORLD





THE PALACE OF PEACE AT THE HAGUE

Seat of the World Court, the most ambitious attempt to place international law upon a firm foundation.

## Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

### The Evolution of International Law

**P**UBLIC references to international law have been very frequent since the European war broke out. Both sides have been accused of violating it. Both look to it to justify their actions. But what, after all, is international law? Some skeptics claim that if there is law there must be a lawmaker, statute books, police to enforce it, and courts to interpret it. Since there are no such things to govern relations among nations, they assert, there is no such thing as international law.



DAVID S. MUZZEY

But there does exist, however, a certain moral force based upon centuries of diplomatic procedure and treaties which is too strong for any power to ignore entirely. It is to this force that people refer when they speak of international law, the force of custom and

existing treaties governing relations between nations.

To get back to the beginnings of this law one might keep on indefinitely, for development of an ethical code between nations parallels the development of civilization itself. Both the Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church imposed principles of law and moral ethics upon the nations of Europe with such force that they never entirely faded. But it remained for a man named Grotius to sort out and codify these various principles in comprehensive form. This he did in 1625 when he published so exhaustive a study of the subject that it has remained a cornerstone of international law practice ever since.

#### Bases of Law

During the 300 odd years which have passed since publication of Grotius' great work, the speed-up of transportation and communications has drawn the world closer together and rendered standards of international conduct all the more necessary. Each new treaty formed a precedent for subsequent treaties; each mutual trade agreement invited more of the same kind. For the most part, the early laws dealt with one principal subject which nearly all powers used in common, the high seas and their lanes of commerce.

Throughout the nineteenth century the restraints on ocean commerce were gradually lifted. Piracy was abolished by international cooperation. By the Declaration of Paris, in 1856, privateering (a form of national piracy) was likewise abolished, and the legality of naval blockade warfare restricted and defined by agreement. In an effort to humanize warfare the powers agreed upon means of ameliorating the condition of wounded soldiers in the field

(Geneva, 1864), and prohibited the use of explosive bullets.

All these agreements were scattered and separate, of course. To combine, revise, and expand them as a single basis for international cooperation, the very important First Hague Conference opened in the Netherlands in 1899. Eight years later it was followed by a Second Hague Conference, which was attended by representatives of 44 countries. These two conferences sought to bring about a reduction in armaments, stricter regulation of naval warfare, prohibition of the use of poison gas, and a substitution of peaceful arbitration for warfare in the settlement of international disputes. The Second Hague Conference took the important step of establishing a world court for the purpose of arbitrating such disputes. Directly on the heels of the Second Hague Conference a conference of 10 leading naval powers met in London (1908-09) in which the famous Declaration of London, still further regulating naval warfare for the protection of neutral and civilian rights, was signed.

#### During World War

Thus a great body of law had come into being by the time the World War broke out. All the nations engaged in the World War had subscribed to it, but for four years it was violated by both sides on a great many different occasions. Great Britain and Germany were the principal offenders. Each blamed the other for violations, but each paid lip service to the laws and asserted it would honor them if only its enemy would. In torpedoing passenger ships without warning, Germany violated the law. In seizing neutral cargoes bound for neutral ports, Britain violated it. In taking over ships belonging to neutrals without the owner's permission, both Britain and the United States stretched the letter of international law to the point of violation.

Yet this temporary breakdown only seemed to increase the resolve to strengthen the law of nations. Creation of the League of Nations, and reorganization of the World Court, following the war, constituted the greatest attempt ever made to establish a sound and enduring system of international law.

But in spite of the decline of the League, and of the breakdown of the peace, many principles of international law still exist, and are recognized by nearly all powers. In planting mines which are not anchored to the sea bottom, but which float with the current and drift into neutral shipping lanes, Germany has violated international law. In attempting to blockade German exports, Britain is violating international law. Yet both nations admit the law to exist, and both claim they are acting in accordance with it, only taking extraordinary measures because the enemy's actions have forced them to do so.

## Personalities in the News

"**I**T'S been a good life, and it still is." Thus Josephus Daniels sums up, bluntly, honestly, without regard for modesty or literary grace, a life of public service which began 60 years ago when he became editor of the *Wilson*, North Carolina, *Advance*. Daniels was 18 years old, an aristocrat, and, like most Southerners, a Democrat. He had been born during the Civil War and was growing up in a South that was undergoing a complete transformation, socially and economically. Five years later he was editor of the *Raleigh State Chronicle*. He had been admitted to the bar but had never practiced, for his heart was in the battles he was waging with his press. He was fighting for education, roads, industrial development, all the things he held vital to Southern prosperity. Now an almost legendary figure, he was once the shining liberal of the South. He was fighting reaction and short-sighted politicians, and although he has since served in three departments under as many presidents, Daniels has never run for an elective office himself.

During Grover Cleveland's second term, Daniels was a high official in the Department of Interior, and under Woodrow Wilson (whose political campaign he managed), he was secretary of the navy, with Franklin D. Roosevelt serving as his assistant. Mr. Roosevelt was the first Democrat after Wilson to occupy the White House, and he rewarded many faithful party members with diplomatic posts. Josephus Daniels was made ambassador to Mexico.

Many in the Mexican capital believed Daniels' appointment was a deliberate insult, for they remembered that he had been secretary of the navy in April 1914, when the United States had landed armed forces at Vera Cruz. But the genial Southerner appeared not to notice the hostility and spoke warmly of the need for closer relations between the two countries. Soon the Mexicans admitted that they had been mistaken and before long the aged diplomat, with his wide-brimmed hat and old-fashioned neckties, was a welcome figure in the southern capital. He has ironed out many small differences between the adjacent republics, but as a statesman he can only reflect the national policy.

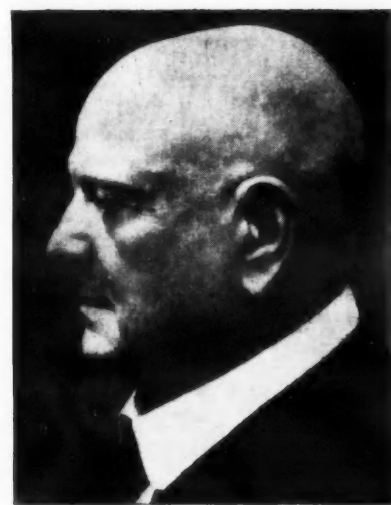
Lately the American public has begun to forget about Daniels, and when a book appeared last month bearing his name, it seemed almost like a posthumous publication. Those who have read "Tar Heel Editor" (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, \$3.50) retain that impression, for Daniels here discusses his childhood, a period that few Americans remember. He writes of the South in a time far more critical than the present, and he tells of a tradition of liberal, outspoken journalism which he started and which his son Jonathan is carrying on from the editor's desk of the *Raleigh News and Observer*. It is a book historians will cherish. It shows that Josephus Daniels, who will be 78 in May, is still in progressive public service.



JOSEPHUS DANIELS

**O**NE of the first rumors to come from Finland, on the heels of the Soviet invasion, was to the effect that a man named Jan Sibelius had been injured or killed in a bombing raid. Although there was no confirmation of these rumors, they were featured prominently in many foreign papers, and they revealed that to many foreigners Sibelius is the most important, and at least the best-known man in Finland. He is a composer and a musician. Many critics consider him to be the greatest living composer, and all consider him to be the musical voice of Finland.

There are few instances in history where the life of a great artist has so closely paralleled that of his country. When Sibelius was born in the little town of Tavastehus, in 1865, Finland was governed by Russia. He studied music quietly at Helsinki, and then abroad in Berlin and Vienna, gaining only a moderate amount of recognition. When he returned to his home, however, a wave of Finnish nationalism was sweeping the country, a wave in which his imagination was caught. Almost at once the nationalist spirit began to ap-



JAN SIBELIUS

pear in his compositions. One of his works, "Finlandia," stirred its hearers to such a high pitch of patriotic emotion wherever it was played, that the Russian governors of Finland banned all further performances. But while the piece could no longer be played, its principal melody, a sort of triumphant hymn, was taken up by the people, and subsequently became the unofficial national anthem of the Finns.

After Finland gained its independence, at the close of the World War, its new government honored Sibelius by granting him a life pension which enabled him to retire to a country house among the woods and lakes north of Helsinki to devote himself to composition. Nine years ago it honored him again by appropriating sufficient funds to finance recordings of all his major works for distribution throughout the world.

Comfortably settled in his lodge in Finland's semiwilderness, Sibelius has produced a prodigious amount of work in his lifetime. Although he is far from the crowded cultural centers of the world, his works enjoy great popularity in both Europe and America, perhaps more so than those of any other living composer. Particularly known as the composer of "Finlandia" and "Valse Triste," he is more revered among musicians for his more recent and profound works, particularly for his later symphonies. All in all there are seven Sibelius symphonies in circulation. It is believed that Sibelius has written an eighth and last which he will not permit to be played until after his death.

The popularity of Sibelius' music outside of Finland offers an interesting point for speculation. Some believe that it stems in part from the vigor and freshness with which it portrays the spirit of deep forests, the lakes, skies, and snow of the far north—a feeling welcomed by way of contrast among the dwellers of crowded cities.





RADIO

COURTESY NBC

From the monitor's box a director cues the principals in a drama of the air.

## • Vocational Outlook •

### Radio

**R**ADIO, the little "billion-dollar industry" which has mushroomed since the turn of the century, is surrounded by an air of glamour not unlike that of its twin, the motion-picture industry. The extravagance of the studios, the programs, and the salaries of entertainers often lead young people to think that here is a get-rich-quick profession. But this is a notion which it would be well to forget. A realistic study of radio tells a different story.

The industry employs approximately a quarter of a million persons, of whom 100,000 are unskilled workers in the service of manufacturers. About 75,000 radio servicemen form the next largest group in radio, and these are, or should be, skilled workers. However, a large number of training schools during the twenties lured hopeful youths into their classrooms, gave them slipshod training in return for substantial fees, and the result was an over-supply of incompetent technicians. These were badly hit in the depression and many were forced out of business.

It has been said that of the 75,000, only 15,000 are properly qualified to examine and repair receiving sets, and that the country could use double this number. Thus there is still a place for the well-trained serviceman, but he will have to weather much competition. And in general the earnings in this line of work have not been sufficient to attract the most skilled men. About three-quarters of all radio servicemen operate their own repair shops and earn in the neighborhood of \$20 a week. The employees in repair shops may make considerably less, but in good concerns in the larger towns they often make more than the average proprietor. Here they may specialize in either servicing or merchandising and, with the right personality and ability, may earn \$50 or \$60 a week.

Training for this type of work and for employment as studio engineer is basically the same and begins in high school with algebra, plane geometry, and physics. Since a thorough understanding of electricity is an eventual necessity, a boy should start his training in this as soon as possible. It is offered by several technical high schools, and can also be undertaken by tinkering with radios and later by setting up a "ham," or amateur, broadcasting station. In this connection it should be noted that several authorities discount the value of correspondence courses in radio or electricity when provisions are not made for actual laboratory work.

Training schools vary widely in curriculum, fees, length of time required, and also in standing and competence of instruction. A boy can often learn enough to qualify as a serviceman by attending free evening courses, but anyone planning to work in a studio should consult broadcasting directors before making a decision. The country's oldest school, R.C.A. Insti-

tute, is run by the organization which controls the National Broadcasting Company and offers classes in New York and Chicago. A student may enroll in either city for a general 18-month course costing \$670; books and equipment will cost an additional \$72 and the cost of living is estimated at \$15 a week. This is merely an illustration, for excellent courses are given in other cities in conjunction with large stations or in recognized schools, and some are only nine months in duration.

Of every 10 studio employees, two are engineers, two are entertainers, two are announcers, two are clerical workers, one is an executive, and the tenth is selling "time" to local businesses. Technicians in 1935 averaged \$35 a week and announcers \$24. Clerical workers, who account for most of the women in radio, receive prevailing wages, although some girls have improved their income by qualifying as studio librarians.

Entertainers were paid \$41 a week, according to the same survey, but this average would have been lower if it had not included the salaries of strongly unionized musicians. Studio entertainers are retained chiefly for programs which are not sponsored by an advertiser, and as a result go on the air at a time when few people are listening. They are therefore unimportant members of the staff and poorly paid. Occasionally, of course, a sponsor will buy such a program, but not often. The great advantages of the networks are bringing more and more stations into the fold. This trend gives the stations less need for diverting entertainers, since most of their programs are then "piped in" from Radio City, Columbia Square, or wherever the network presentation happens to originate. The same thing applies to announcers.

The air waves apparently will not permit much further expansion of radio, and personnel is at a standstill. This personnel, as we have seen, is an odd mixture of skilled and unskilled, and while enormous salaries are going to sponsored entertainers, not really connected with radio, those in all ranks of the profession are being paid less than their training and duties would seem to merit.

Thoughts of television naturally excite the minds of many ambitious boys, but it should be remembered that mass production of this instrument is still several years in the future, and that when it comes it will be a part of radio, rather than a new and rival industry. We know too little of the technique that will go into the finished product to speculate on the increased employment it will create. It seems probable, however, that telecasting will replace broadcasting to a large extent, and that as this change approaches, the industry's present personnel will prepare to step into the newly created jobs, leaving the employment situation substantially as it is today.

## - Straight Thinking -

### XIV. Labels

**I**N an earlier issue of this paper, we had a note under the Straight Thinking column about the misuse of labels. The subject is important enough to justify further consideration.

Not long ago we heard a discussion between two people who were talking about labor unions. One of them said that he "believed in them," that he was "for them." The other said that he was "against labor unions," that he did not believe in them. The one who supported labor unions then cited a number of cases of labor union activities. He described the condition of workers who were obliged to work for starvation wages, who were miserably housed, and who had almost no independence because they were employed by tyrannical corporations. He told how these workers had formed themselves into a union and were battling to force the harsh employers to give them wages which would enable them to live decently.

The opponent of labor unions then described the case of certain highly skilled workers who were relatively few in number. They charged very high fees so that it was hard for a newcomer to get into the union. In this way they kept their numbers down. They were in a monopolistic position and could command very high wages. They set their wages so high that the cost of producing goods in the factory where they worked went up and the public could not afford to buy the product. He told of cases of unions quarreling with other unions and striking because the members of the other unions were employed. The supporter of the labor unions came back with other instances of good work done by the unions.

These two individuals kept going around in circles. They got nowhere because they were not talking about the same thing. One of them was discussing a certain kind of organization to which workers belong, and the other was talking about a different kind of organization. Both organizations were labeled labor unions, but that did not make them alike.

These two individuals would have had the same difficulty if they had been arguing on the question as to whether employers are entitled to sympathy and support. One can never get anywhere discussing a thing of that kind. If, however, those

who wish to engage in a discussion define their terms properly, they can begin to arrive at results. They may say, for example, "Is a labor union justified in keeping new members out?" "How far should it go in raising wages when it is in a strong position because of the fact that employers cannot get any other men to do that particular kind of work?" "Is a union justified in striking because another union with which it does not agree is also working at the job?" "Is a union entitled to support when its members are working for less than a living wage and when the employers will not willingly create conditions under which the men can live decently?"

Each of these questions may be argued, and it is possible to take one side or the



FIFTY-FIFTY

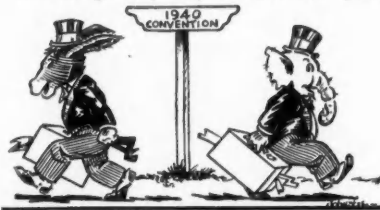
THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

other. Each question is debatable, but different questions of that kind should be studied separately. When one throws organizations of a different nature together and calls them by a single name, he confuses the issue. If you say merely, "Are labor unions entitled to support?" it is as hard to answer the question as it would be to say to someone, "Do you like fruit?" Perhaps the individual whom you address likes some kinds of fruit and does not like other kinds. And he may approve certain labor unions and he may oppose some of the things that other unions do. Similarly, he may approve the actions of certain employers while opposing things which other employers do.

## Do You Keep Up With the News?

(For answers to the following questions, turn to page 8, column 4)

1. The flag of what nation now flies over the French town of Angers?
2. All but one of these eastern colleges refused to let Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist party, speak in their lecture halls: (a) Dartmouth, (b) Harvard, (c) Princeton, (d) Yale.
3. Leopold Stokowski, John Barbirolli, and Serge Koussevitzky are recognized as leading in this country.
4. There is a copy of England's "Magna Charta" in the Library of Congress. True or false?
5. Although they may be later next year,



the Democratic and Republican National Conventions usually come in (a) January, (b) March, (c) June, (d) September.

6. New York City has been given 1,000,000 tulip bulbs and will plant them out in the largest floral pattern ever attempted in the United States. The bulbs were the gift of what country?

7. A plea for peace between the AFL and the CIO recently was made by David Dubinsky, head of a large independent union: (a) the United Mine Workers of America, (b) the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, (c) the United Federal Workers, (d) the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees.

8. Of what country has Colonel Fulgencio Batista been dictator?

9. Mrs. Roosevelt recently came out in vigorous support of Martin Dies' Committee investigating un-American activities. True or false?

10. Kermit Roosevelt's reported intention to become a British citizen brings to mind the similar action in the last war of Henry James, distinguished American (a) scientist, (b) novelist, (c) explorer, (d) doctor.

11. John Nance Garner recently had a birthday. Give the vice president's age within five years.

12. Sumner Welles and Joseph Grew see eye to eye on the acts of what nation?

13. Fritz Kuhn has been found guilty of traveling with a forged passport. True or false?

14. "Navicert" is a British word, used in wartime to denote (a) a volunteer assigned to naval duty, (b) a class of small ships used in clearing out coastal mines, (c) a paper issued by consuls in foreign ports to ships not carrying contraband, (d) an enemy sailor taken prisoner at sea by England.

15. Emil Schram, head of the \_\_\_\_\_, recently said that if banks were not more liberal his agency would offer loans to small business.

16. George Elser has gained prominence in Germany as (a) the officer who torpedoed the *Royal Oak*, (b) the new protector of Bohemia-Moravia, (c) the man believed to have planted the bomb in the Munich beer hall, (d) Germany's ambassador in Russia.

17. The President has spoken of drawing up two budgets, "A" and "B." Of what would "B" budget consist?

18. What is Parkchester?



## Conservation of U. S. Resources

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

that erosion removes 126 billion pounds of plant food from our fields and pastures every year. This is a tremendous amount. It is more than 20 times as much as is extracted by crops. The annual loss to farmers in dollars—if such things can be computed in dollars—is at least \$400,000,000. The total loss to date is at least \$10,000,000,000 and is growing rapidly.

### Destruction of Soil

Most of our land contains only seven or eight inches of productive, humus-containing topsoil. Without this topsoil, the land is useless. No crops of any kind can be grown on it. As long as the soil was covered by forests or grass, this topsoil was protected against washing away. But man has destroyed much of this natural protection. When a heavy rain falls on land that has been plowed, cultivated, or incorrectly planted, the topsoil is gradually washed away. After a while little gullies are formed which speed up the process of washing away. They grow rapidly and do much damage to the once fertile fields. Unless our present methods of cultivation are drastically changed, it is believed that our topsoil will be completely removed in most places in from three to 75 years.

Wind also wreaks great havoc. A single dust storm in 1934 swept 300,000,000 tons of topsoil from the fertile plains of the Middle West. This is almost as much as is washed into the sea by the Missis-



REMOVAL OF PROTECTING COVER DAMAGES THE SOIL

sippi River during the course of a year.

Destruction has been worst in the so-called "Dust Bowl." This is a dry but fertile section which extends over a large part of Oklahoma, Colorado, eastern Kansas, eastern Arkansas, and northern Texas. It was originally covered by a heavy grass that prevented the soil from blowing away.

Before the World War the land was used chiefly for grazing. In itself, grazing is not particularly harmful, although it may destroy some of the protective grass covering. During the World War, however, much of this land was plowed up and planted in wheat. The result has been frightful dust storms in dry years. In wet years the soil has been washed away by water. Much of the land has now been abandoned. But it is estimated that from 20 to 50 years must pass before grass returns to protect the abandoned areas.

### The Great Tragedy

Still another danger threatens the fertility of our soil. Each year the soil is gradually being robbed of nitrogen and other vital elements on which our crops depend. The National Resources Board has estimated the annual loss to be some 16,000,000 tons of nitrogen, 36,000,000 tons of potash, 53,000,000 tons of calcium, and 332,000,000 tons of organic matter. More than half of this loss is due to wind and water. The remainder is the result of natural absorption by crops and pastures. Some of the loss is replaced by fertilizers or by rotation of crops. But there is a huge net loss amounting to some 300,000,000 tons a year.

The tragedy of all this waste is that it is almost wholly unnecessary. Nearly all the immense losses of timber, min-



POOR LAND AND GOOD LAND  
In the picture on the left, sand has drifted over farm land, making it useless for any purpose. \*On the right, strip-cropping, to prevent soil erosion, keeps the land healthy and productive.



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

erals, and soil could have been prevented by the use of intelligent, scientific methods. We cannot, in most cases, replace that which is lost. But we can, if we will, see to it that losses are stopped in the future.

Already we have made a beginning toward replanting our forests. The Civilian Conservation Corps is planting from a third to a half a million acres a year. But this is not nearly enough. Altogether it is estimated that some 80,000,000 acres should be replanted. Larger government appropriations will be necessary if this is to be done in our lifetime.

Slow progress is being made toward the adoption of more scientific methods of cutting timber. Where these are utilized the choice trees are taken out without injury to the young trees, leaving the latter to provide timber for the future. Much is being done also to cut down the losses from forest fires.

Similar progress is being made in mining. In the better mines a real effort is put forth to avoid waste. The less available coal and ores are being mined along with the better veins. Nearly all the oil states have introduced means of regulating the oil output so as to prevent overproduction. New inventions have been made to cap gushers, and to utilize oil not hitherto available. But waste continues.

The United States Department of Agriculture, through its Soil Conservation Service, has done a great deal to show how erosion can be prevented. It has shown,

for example, that wooded land is the best protection against the loss of soil. The leaves of trees break the rainfall, while their roots hold the soil in place. Even on the steepest hillsides, forest land rarely washes away.

### Government Program

Some reforestation, we have noted, is already under way. This is primarily a job for the government. Individual farmers cannot be expected to give up much of their land for woods. But the wood lots that already exist should be preserved and all hillsides, where possible, should be planted in trees. Trees also serve as wind-breaks on the plains, thus cutting down the loss from windstorms.

Where trees cannot be grown, grass may prove just as satisfactory. Sod planted on the banks of gullies may prevent them from spreading and growing deeper.

Erosion can also be prevented by proper methods of planting and cultivation of crops. The rotation of crops helps protect the soil. The Department of Agriculture recommends the planting of clover or alfalfa, or some similar soil-building crop, every second or third year, to replenish the moisture and humus supply of the soil.

Some of these same steps will also prove a protection against wind. Obstructions of any kind prevent the soil from blowing away. Stubble left over from the last year's crop offers some protection. Wood lots and fences are better. But best of all is grass. Restoration of grass in the "Dust Bowl" is highly desirable.

These methods of soil conservation have another value. They are of inestimable aid in preventing floods. We often read

of the need for dams and levees as a means of checking the disastrous floods which have swept the United States in recent years. But anything which stops the flow of water helps to cut down the loss from floods. The planting of trees and grass, the proper kind of plowing and cultivation, and strip-cropping will all serve to check the flow of water into our streams after a heavy rain. Methods such as these are often called "upstream flood control," while dams and levees come under the head of "downstream control."

### An Important Task

It will be seen that the conservation of our natural resources is an important and difficult task. It depends in large part on action by the federal and state governments. Federal laws are necessary to enable the various government agencies to cooperate with farmers in the establishment of soil conservation measures. The federal government can help by buying up unused and marginal land and replanting it in forests or in grass. It can point the way by research and demonstration projects, and thus to help individual farmers. The states must work with the federal government and individual farmers in a co-operative program to check erosion. They alone are in a position to organize local effort.

But a large measure of responsibility necessarily rests with the individual farmers who must carry out the program suggested by the government. Hundreds of thousands of farmers are at present actively cooperating in conservation measures such as those outlined above. But the job is still far from completed. It is estimated that not more than a third of the cultivated land of the country is satisfactorily protected against erosion. Years of hard work will be necessary before the task can be finished. The saving of our rich, natural heritage is one of the outstanding challenges before the American people at the present time.

**REFERENCES:** (a) Our Adventure in Conservation, by F. A. Silcox. *Reader's Digest*, January 1938, pp. 96-98. (b) Science and the New Landscape, by P. B. Sears. *Harpers*, July 1939, pp. 207-216. (c) Private Effort and Natural Resources, by G. Morris. *Nation's Business*, June 1938, pp. 47-48. (d) Trees, by D. C. Peattie. *Reader's Digest*, January 1938, pp. 47-50. (e) The monthly numbers of *Nature Magazine* carry a regular feature called Conservation, edited by A. N. Pack. (f) A pamphlet on one phase of conservation is "Saving Our Soil," published by Public Affairs Committee, 8 West 40th Street, New York City. Price, 10 cents.

## Answer Keys

### Do You Keep Up With the News?

1. Poland; 2. (d); 3. orchestra conductors; 4. true (it was on exhibit at the New York Fair and is in Washington for safe keeping); 5. (c); 6. Holland; 7. (b); 8. Cuba; 9. false; 10. (b); 11. he is 71; 12. Japan; 13. false; 14. (c); 15. Reconstruction Finance Corporation; 16. (c); 17. emergency defense expenditures; 18. a housing project being built in New York City by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company—with accommodations for 40,000. It will be the world's largest.

## Smiles

The only people who seem never able to escape discovery are female movie stars, try as they may to conceal their identity by walking up Fifth Avenue at noon in green goggles, slacks, and leading a tiger cub on a leash.  
—New York Times

Harrison, who was proud of his golf, had brought his mother-in-law along to watch him play with a friend.

"I'm particularly eager to make a terrific drive just now," Harrison told his friend. "My mother-in-law is over there on the green and I—"

"Don't be a fool!" said his friend. "You'll never hit her at 200 yards!"  
—RECORD

Father: "The man who marries my daughter will get a prize."  
Sailor: "May I see it, please?"

—U. S. S. TENNESSEE TAR

If they keep on placing zippers on garments, a button will be as out of place as a horsefly at an auto show.  
—Greensboro Herald-Journal

She had just returned from a tour of Europe, and her acquaintances were given no opportunity to forget the fact.

"And Paris!" she gushed, "Paris is wonderful. The people are all so well educated. Why, even the street cleaners talk French!"  
—TIT-BITS

Aggravated Prof: "Listen here, young man, are you the teacher of this class?"

Student: "No, sir, I'm not."

Prof: "Then don't talk like an idiot!"  
—LAMPPOON

"I suppose you carry a memento of some sort in that locket?" said one woman to another.

"Yes, a lock of my husband's hair."

"But your husband is alive."

"Sure, but his hair is gone."  
—LABOR



"PATIENCE, JOE, I THINK HE'S BEGINNING TO CATCH ON!"  
BREGER IN SATURDAY EVENING POST